

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A capsular equatorial ring (5) which, after the removal of a natural lens, can be implanted in the opened capsular bag (3) of an eye and, when implanted, rests with its outer periphery against the inside of the capsular bag (3), essentially on the equator thereof, and radially stabilizes the capsular bag (3), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the capsular equatorial ring (5) is closed and has a number of foldable and/or creasable segments (7) and stiff segments (6) that are arranged alternately in the peripheral direction.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the capsular equatorial ring (5) has 16 peripheral segments (6, 7).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the peripheral segments (6, 7) are designed alternately as stiff PMMA segments (6) (polymethyl methacrylate) and HEMA/MMA copolymer segments (7) (hydroxyethyl methacrylate-co-methyl methacrylate).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the PMMA segments (6) taper radially toward the segment center at least from the inside.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in claim 3 ~~or 4, characterized in that~~ wherein the PMMA segments (6) taper in the axial direction of the ring (5) toward the segment center.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in ~~one of claims 3 through 5~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the HEMA/MMA copolymer segments (7) taper radially toward the segment center from the inside.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in ~~one of claims 3 through 6~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the HEMA/MMA copolymer segments (7) have an approximately 28% water content.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in ~~one of claims 3 through 7~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a radial thickness of the PMMA segments (6) in the segment center is approximately 0.2 mm.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in ~~one of claims 3 through 8~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an axial width of the outer

periphery of the capsular equatorial ring (5) is approximately 0.7 mm, the PMMA segments (6) being approximately 0.5 mm wide in the segment center, and the HEMA/MMA copolymer segments (7) being approximately 0.7 mm wide in the segment center.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 9~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the capsular equatorial ring (5) has a sharp-edged outer periphery adjoining its end faces, in particular a sharp-edged anterior and posterior configuration.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The capsular equatorial ring as claimed in ~~one of claims 3 through 10~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the HEMA/MMA copolymer segments (7) are impregnated with a medicament.

Claim 12 (Canceled).